

[Irvin Cumbie]

Range-lore

Annie McAuley

Maverick, Texas #15

Sep -8 1938

RANGE-LORE

Irvin Cumbie was born at Bronte, Coke County, Texas, in 1893.

Mr. Cumbie says: "As my father ranched some and always had plenty of saddle horses, I learned to ride and as I grew older I got to be a pretty fair roper. I roped at the first rodeo ever held in this part of the county when I was fifteen years old. I got my hand pretty badly torn up once, roping a wild cow. I was helping to round up a bunch to ship. I had begun to think I was some roper by then and when this old cow made a drive to get away I threw the lariat over her head. Somehow I got tangled in the rope and it got wound around my hand. The cow didn't get away, but I almost lost a hand then and there. Some [????] 2 of the boys helped me off my horse and took me to the hospital where I remained for several weeks. I almost lost my arm.

"I got my first real punching job away from home, on the Paso ranch. I worked for Roland Hudson and Sam Neff, brother to Pat M. Neff. They owned a big ranch on the line of Coke and Runnels counties, fifteen or twenty miles south of Bronte. I learned more about ropin' and ridin' and about cattle, too.

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"I believe Tom Privett, "Booger Red" was the best rider or at least the best bronc buster I ever knew. He was the originator of rodeo shows in this part of the west. Vick Hazelton was a good horsebreaker, always rode on ranches, though.

"My father performed the wedding ceremony for Booger Red right out on the street in Bronte. Old Booger was a good scout, too, if he was tough. And how he loved horses. My father said he'd fool with them by the day. Vick Hazelton was the same way, couldn't stand to see horseflesh mistreated, but he sure did like to conquer 'em, though.

"When I was in my twenties I decided to raise a few cattle and horses for myself. I leased a little place over here in the hills, and I've been dabbling in the 3 business ever since, only lately it has been sheep instead of cattle. I have my grocery business, but I've always liked stock and I don't think I could get along without them."

REFERENCE: - Irvin Cumbie, Bronte, Texas. Interviewed August 19, 1938. 1 c Beliefs and Customs - Occupational lore

Mrs. Annie McAuley

Maverick, Texas

Runnels County

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COWBOY LORE

IRVIN CUMBIE was born at Bronte, Coke County, Texas, in 1893. His father, R. M. Cumbie, moved to Coke County in 1883. He was a rancher-later farmed some, too,

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and was also a missionary Baptist preacher. Irvin was married in 1916 to Miss Rebecca Maxwell of Bronte.

Mr. Cumbie says, "As my father ranched some and always had plenty of saddle horses . , I learned to ride young. I learned to ride broncs, too. and / As I grew older I got to be a pretty fair roper. I roped at the first rodeo ever held in this part of the country when I was fifteen years old. I got my hand pretty badly torn up once, roping a wild cow. I was helping to round up a bunch to ship. I had begun to think I had began to think I was some roper by then and when this old cow made a dive to get away I threw the lariat over her head. Somehow I got tangled in the rope and it got wound around my hand. The cow didn't get away, but I almost lost a hand then and there.

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"I worked awhile for old Bob Hewitt. That was about twenty five [?] years ago. I was cattle inspector for a few years after that.

"When I was in my twenties I decided to raise a few cattle and horses for myself. I leased a little place over here in the hills, and I've been dabbling in the business ever since, only lately it has been sheep instead of cattle. I have my grocery business, but I've always liked stock and I don't think I could get along without them." Bibliography Irvin Cumbie, Bronte, Texas. Native born citizen and stockman of Coke County, Interviewed Aug. 19, 1938.